

Message Text

SECRET

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 /026 W

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R 221050Z JAN 75

FM AMEMBASSY JIDDA

TO SECSTATE WASHDC 9927

INFO AMEMBASSY AMMAN

AMEMBASSY CAIRO

AMEMBASSY DAMASCUS

AMEMBASSY TOME

AMEMBASSY TRIPOLI

S E C R E T JIDDA 0496

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: GDS

TAGS: MASS, PFOR, SA, LY, IT

SUBJECT: U.S. ARMS AND SPARE PARTS FOR LIBYA

SUMMARY: SAG, ACTING ON BEHALF OF LIBYANS, ASKS IF
U.S. WOULD RELEASE TO GOL SMALL ARMS AND SPARE PARTS
LIBYANS HAVE SUPPOSEDLY PAID FOR. END SUMMARY.

1. MOHAMMAD MAS'UD, SAUDI ACTING MINISTER OF STATE
FOR FOREIGN AFFAIRS, GAVE ME THIS AFTERNOON (1200
GMT JAN 21) A LETTER FROM PRINCE SULTAN, SAUDI
MINISTER OF DEFENSE, FORWARDING AND ENDORSING A
LIBYAN REQUEST FOR DELIVERY OF ARMS AND SPARE
PARTS ALREADY ORDERED FROM THE UNITED STATES AND
ITALY AND ALREADY PAID FOR. ABU BAKR YOUNIS JABER,
THE LIBYAN CHIEF OF STAFF WHO WAS IN SAUDI ARABIA
FOR PILGRIMAGE HAD REQUESTED SULTAN TO INTERCEDE
WITH THE UNITED STATES ON LIBYA'S BEHALF.

2. SULTAN'S LETTER WAS DATED JAN 16 AND AS I HAD
SEEN SULTAN ON THE 19TH, AND AS SULTAN HAD NOT RAISED
THE SUBJECT, I ASKED MAS'UD IF THIS WERE A SERIOUS
SAUDI REQUEST OR WAS IT JUST BEING PRESENTED PRO
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FORMA. MAS'UD SAID THAT IT WAS SERIOUS; THE SAUDIS

WOULD LIKE TO PROVE TO THE LIBYANS THAT THEIR FRIENDSHIP WITH THE U.S. IS EFFECTIVE AND THAT THEY, UNLIKE ANY OTHER ARAB STATE, WOULD BE ABLE TO PERSUADE THE UNITED STATES TO TAKE ACTION.

3. I SAID THAT I WAS SURE IF WE WERE TO ACCEDE TO THE REQUEST IT WOULD ONLY BE BECAUSE OF THE SAUDI INTERVENTION. BUT WASN'T THERE A DANGER THIS WOULD PROVE WHAT THE LIBYANS HAD BEEN SAYING FOR YEARS, NAMELY THAT THE SAUDI GOVERNMENT WAS A MERE EXTENSION OF THE UNITED STATES? HE SAID HE WOULD PASS THE INQUIRY ON TO SULTAN, BUT THE REQUEST WAS REAL; IT HAD BEEN DISCUSSED BY THE COUNCIL OF MINISTERS AND APPROVED BY THE KING FOR THE REASON HE HAD GIVEN ME.

4. COMMENT AND ACTION REQUESTED: WE ARE NOT ENDORSING OR URGING COMPLIANCE OF THE REQUEST. THE SAUDIS ARE PROBABLY RIGHT; IF WE DELIVER THE GOODS IT WOULD SHOW THE LIBYANS AND OTHERS THAT SAUDI REQUESTS ARE TAKEN SERIOUSLY BY US AND WE WOULD BENEFIT ACCORDINGLY. SO WOULD THE SAUDIS. IF IT IS TRUE, AS THE LIBYANS ASSERT, THAT THE ORDERS HAVE BEEN APPROVED AND PAID FOR, WE MAY INTEND TO DELIVER THE GOODS ANYWAY. IF SO, PLEASE LET US KNOW; THE SAUDIS WILL THEN BE ABLE TO GET SOME CREDIT FOR THEIR INTERVENTION. IF WE CAN'T OR WON'T, PLEASE GIVE US THE RATIONALE FOR THE REFUSAL. THE SAUDIS WILL NOT BE BROKEN UP.

5. TEXT OF THE LETTER FOLLOWS:

"YOUR EXCELLENCY:

"I WOULD LIKE TO INFORM YOUR EXCELLENCY THAT THE LIBYAN ARAB REPUBLIC HAD IN THE PAST CONTRACTED WITH AMERICAN AND ITALIAN COMPANIES FOR THE IMPORTATION OF ARMS, EQUIPMENT AND SPARE PARTS, INCLUDING C 130 AIRCRAFT, WITH THEIR SPARE PARTS, FROM THE AMERICAN LOCKHEED COMPANY AUTOMILARA (SIC), WHICH PRODUCES THIS KIND OF ARTILLERY AND TRANSPORT UNDER USA LICENSE.

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"THESE COMPANIES HAVE, HOWEVER, STOPPED DELIVERY OF THE EQUIPMENT MENTIONED ABOVE IN ACCORDANCE WITH INSTRUCTIONS FROM USG DEPARTMENTS; THIS IN SPITE OF THE COMPLETION OF THE MANUFACTURE OF ALL ITEMS CONTRACTED FOR, AND THE SIGNING BY THE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF THE DOCUMENT OF OWNERSHIP OF THIS EQUIPMENT BY LIBYA. WHAT HAS HAPPENED, IT

SEEMS, IS THAT BOTH GOVERNMENTS, THE AMERICAN AND THE ITALIAN, HAVE STOPPED EXPORTING THESE ITEMS TO LIBYA.

"FOR THIS REASON THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT, REPRESENTED BY THE GENERAL CHIEF OF STAFF, LT. COLONEL ABU BAKR YOUNIS JABER, REQUESTED THAT THE GOVERNMENT OF THE KINGDOM OF SAUDI ARABIA, AS REPRESENTED BY THE MINISTER OF DEFENSE AND CIVIL AVIATION, INTERCEDE WITH THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA FOR PERMISSION TO EXPORT THE AFOREMENTIONED EQUIPMENT AND AIRCRAFT, ESPECIALLY SINCE ALL DUE AMOUNTS HAVE BEEN PAID IN ACCORDANCE WITH THE STIPULATIONS OF CONTRACTS SIGNED.

"WE WOULD GREATLY APPRECIATE IT IF YOUR EXCELLENCY WOULD INTERVENE WITH YOUR GOVERNMENT FOR THE PURPOSE OF ITS AGREEING TO THE RESCINDING OF THAT BAN ON THE EXPORT TO THE LIBYAN GOVERNMENT OF SAID EQUIPMENT AND AIRCRAFT. IT WOULD ALSO BE APPRECIATED IF THE ITALIAN AUTHORITIES ARE INFORMED OF THE REQUIRED ACTION. WE THANK YOUR EXCELLENCY FOR YOUR COOPERATION.

"IN ANTICIPATION OF A FAVORABLE REPLY FROM YOU, I WISH YOU CONTINUED SUCCESS. SULTAN."
AKINS

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Message Attributes

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Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 22 JAN 1975
Decaption Date: 28 MAY 2004
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
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Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Authority: KelleyW0
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 28 MAY 2004
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
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Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
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